

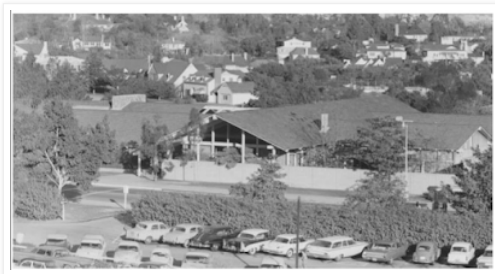
UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Friday, April 4, 2025

The Names, They Are A'Changing



Email received today:

Message from the UCLA Faculty Club's President, Linda Sarna

April 4, 2025

Dear Club Members,

Happy Spring! Since January, the Club has been engaged in a new partnership with Housing & Hospitality (H&H). Despite the fires, rains, holidays and other disruptions affecting the ability of the Club to be open for its members, we are making excellent progress in meeting the goals of our mission while pursuing fiscal sustainability. Factors affecting this positive outcome are the strong usage of the Club by members, including the increased number of Events. H&H now has a labor model that works under the leadership of our Interim General Manager Guadalupe (Lupe) Morales. H&H is in the process of hiring a new GM for the position. In addition to two resignations, four other employees were laid off and encouraged to pursue other options at UCLA. On a positive note, all of our current employees have completed their required training, and one received outstanding recognition for her service. I meet frequently with the GM and with H&H leadership, Al Ferrone and Peter Angelis, so that we are all on the same page, focused on the success of the club. This includes moving forward with the renovation for the North Hallway restroom. At our June Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 18, we will have a full discussion of the financial status of the Club since the transition.

The dramatic changes in the administrative structure of the Club, required us to do a careful analysis of our Bylaws. As a result, after long discussions and multiple drafts, the approved new Bylaws will guide the Board's direction, beginning July 1. Rather than a cumbersome and labor-intensive committee structure, the new smaller Board will work together as a "Committee of the Whole" to accomplish our mission. We will still have an elected leadership team consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair 1 (Treasurer) and Vice Chair 2 (Secretary), and two At-Large Members. Representatives from the UCLA Emeriti Association, the UCLA Faculty Women's Club, and UCLA Administration will continue as voting members.

Previously, the Club held elections in the Spring with a new Board launching September 1. Because of the myriad of operational details involved in the transition, as well as efforts in revising the Club's Bylaws to reflect the new scope of Board responsibilities, the Board made the difficult but thoughtful decision to suspend elections for this year. The new smaller Board with Victoria Steele as Chair, will begin July 1. My term will end June 30th. The Club will have elections for open positions in Spring 2026.

Although the new Interim Operating Agreement, an integration of the 2019 and 2024 agreements, has not yet been approved, we are posting the Club's new approved Bylaws on our website. We will update them when the Operating Agreement becomes finalized.

Last month, we received the excellent news from Administrative Vice Chancellor Michael Beck that Chancellor Frenk and Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost Hunt approved the Club's name change to the University Club. The formal name will be the UCLA University Club. This historic change was supported by our members and more accurately reflects our membership. Over the next few months, the change will become more evident in the signage to our building, our website and communication materials. Stay tuned!

Our next Board meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2-3:30, will be in person and is open to our members. More information will be forthcoming.

Finally, I encourage all of you to support the Club, especially by your attendance at two upcoming special events, the Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt on April 20, and the Mother's Day Brunch on May 11. H&H are doing their best to continue our traditions and make these memorable occasions for you and yours. These events are by reservation only so please contact reservations@fc.ucla.edu as soon as possible.

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Concerns Regarding UCOP Cybersecurity Mandate
- CUCFA and AFT call upon UC to immediately address Student Visa Revocations
- Federal Investigations of UC Faculty Members
- We Support AB-672, A First Step Towards Protecting PERB's Authority
- Emergency Day of Action March 19, Noon

Remaking the University

- Will the California State Legislature Accept Governor Newsom's Manufactured Austerity for Four-Year Higher Education? (Guest Post) - 4/28/2025
- Are Universities Preparing to Fight Back? (Guest Post) - 4/25/2025
- National Day of Action: Who Rules the Academy, and How To Fight Back (Guest Post) - 4/23/2025

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I hope to see you there!

The Board has done their best on your behalf. I remain optimistic about the future success of the Club.

Best wishes for a successful Spring Quarter,

Linda Sarna

President, University Club

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Yours truly can't help but note that the email starts with the name being "Faculty Club" in the heading, but ends in University Club. So I guess the change occurred while reading the message.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [9:52 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [faculty center](#), [UCLA](#)

Where there's smoke...



As blog readers will know, the Academic Senate has held several meetings regarding a proposal to move from quarters to semesters. The meetings were called by petition, i.e., forced on the agenda by petition. So we can assume that this topic was not something Senate leaders were anxious to discuss. And, so far, the meetings have not produced an actual vote.*

The Senate chair has insisted that there is no plan at UCOP to make such a change in calendar. But somehow, there is a report on the Senate website about just that topic. It got there somehow. Someone wanted the topic to be studied.

There has to be a back story here.

In any event, the report is available and can be read and commented on. Go to:

https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/underreview/apc-academic-calendar-workgroup-draft-report.pdf

to see the report and make any comments you have. Comments are due on May 30. Directions on how to submit comments are on the first page of the cover letter.

And by the way, since there is said to be no plan to do anything, why is there a deadline on comments? What's the urgency about a non-plan? Just asking...

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/03/the-special-assembly-meeting-of-march.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:    

Labels: [UCOP](#)

Princeton is not Columbia (but there are institutional reasons why)

From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

The Trump administration froze about \$210 million in federal funding to Princeton University on Tuesday, about half of the university's total federal grants for this fiscal year, according to reports from various media outlets. The university confirmed Tuesday that officials had been notified that dozens of grants were suspended by several federal agencies, including NASA and the Departments of Defense and Energy. In a campuswide email sent Tuesday, Princeton president Christopher Eisgruber said the agencies had provided no reasoning for the funding freeze and did not cite a specific dollar amount...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/04/02/trump-admin-freezes-half-princetons-federal-funding>.

From the [Daily Princetonian](#):

University President Christopher Eisgruber '83 signaled that Princeton would not make concessions to the federal government in an interview with Bloomberg after news broke that the



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Trump administration had suspended dozens of the University's research grants. "I've heard you speak about efforts by powerful actors — in government and outside it — who are trying to control the research that scholars do and the classes they teach. How difficult is it to keep a firewall up, keep insulation surrounding this campus, to keep those 'powerful actors,' as you put it, out of the classrooms, out of the campus itself?" David Gura, the Bloomberg reporter, asked.

"I think it requires a very firm commitment to principle and a willingness to do hard things. University presidents and leaders have to understand that the commitment to allow academics — including our faculty, including our students — to pursue the truth as best they see it is fundamental to what our universities do," Eisgruber responded. "We have to be willing to stand up for that. In principle, we have to be willing to speak up, and we have to be willing to say no to funding if it's going to constrain our ability to pursue the truth." ...

During the 40-minute interview, Eisgruber acknowledged that there were "rare" manifestations of antisemitism on Princeton's campus, and he said the University would address "legitimate concerns where they exist." ...

Full story at <https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2025/04/princeton-news-adpol-eisgruber-university-concessions-bloomberg-interview>.

Also from the [Daily Princetonian](#):

Following funding cuts, a hiring freeze, and increased scrutiny from the federal government, the Board of Trustees did not announce the total operating budget for the University in its budget plan press release for the 2025–26 academic year. However, the University did commit to "projected" increases in undergraduate financial aid and graduate student stipends.

This annual announcement typically updates the campus community on important information regarding the operating budget, financial support for students, and how costs have changed. The missing operating budget marks a departure from the past three years, as the University has shared it in these announcements since the 2022–2023 academic year, and may reflect continued uncertainty about future funding...

Full story at <https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2025/04/princeton-news-adpol-trustees-approve-financial-aid-funding-cuts-federal-government-trump-freeze-hiring>.

And finally from the [Daily Princetonian](#):

The University has announced that it is considering selling approximately \$320 million of taxable bonds. The sale, first reported on by Bloomberg on Tuesday afternoon, follows the Trump administration's freezing of several dozen Princeton research grants. The notice itself does not mention the funding cuts but states that the bonds will serve the University's "general corporate purposes." The bonds, index-eligible with a maturity of five years, are a way for the University to raise short-term funds. The major credit-rating agencies rate University bonds AAA, the highest level of creditworthiness...

Full story at <https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2025/04/princeton-news-adpol-issuing-bonds-same-day-federal-government-pauses-grants>.

A final note from yours truly: Princeton differs from Columbia in not having a medical school, i.e., it is less dependent on the feds for revenue than Columbia. Although both universities are grouped in the Ivy League, grad students make up about 36% of the total enrollment at Princeton and 75% of the total enrollment at Columbia. Princeton's total enrollment is under nine thousand students. Columbia's enrollment is well over 35,000. They are fundamentally different institutions in size and research (and dependence on the feds).

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments: 

Labels: [Columbia](#), [diversity](#), [politics](#), [Princeton U](#)

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Nobody Knows - At UC-SD or Elsewhere

From the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#):

Is my research grant about to get cut? Will I have to lay off staff? Why am I in the dark about this? Anxious questions are dominating conversations at UC San Diego, where scant updates from campus leaders have left an information vacuum in the weeks since the school learned it could lose hundreds of millions of dollars in funding.

Chancellor Pradeep Khosla and his staff have posted messages about the matter on a school website but have mostly spoken in generalities, referring readers to federal websites that are also light on specifics...



The San Diego Union-Tribune spoke with 30 faculty, administrators, students and staff about how the school is coping with the prospect of losing upward of \$150 million in NIH funding meant to help cover overhead costs in research, along with other money. Most were loath to speak publicly, worried about antagonizing school officials or drawing attention from the Trump administration. But nearly everyone the Union-Tribune spoke to said, in one way or another, that they want the school's leadership to start providing clear, timely, useful information about the cuts the school faces...

The lack of information has led some faculty and students to describe the atmosphere at UCSD in bleak terms. "On campus, the energy is gone," said Dr. Davey Smith, director of infectious diseases. "It feels like that moment when a patient gets the news of a terminal illness. Biomedical research is dying. What does that mean for new cures? My career? The university?"

I have no idea. I have empathy for the university on this. I'm often finding out about cuts in my area before they do. Things are happening so fast." ...

Full story at <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/03/30/whats-in-store-for-ucsd-with-campus-leaders-largely-mum-faculty-and-students-are-on-edge/>.

There is - maybe - a buried lede in this story:

"The UC Board of Regents is expected to announce a new president in May, two UCSD faculty members say."

Does that mean a candidate has been chosen? Or does it just mean that since President Drake is leaving at the end of the academic year, May would be the last full meeting of the Regents to announce something before he is gone? Nobody knows.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:     

Labels: Drake, health care, politics, UC-San Diego

Letter to Columbia University Detailing Conditions for Restoration of Funding - Part 10 (Greetings from #3)

One Columbia president stepped down after a year of turmoil. An interim president signed a deal with the feds but privately told faculty something else in a Zoom call that became public. So president #3 was appointed by the Trustees from their own board. She sent the following message on taking office:



Dear members of the Columbia community,

Today, I write to you in my new capacity as Acting President. I do so with awe for the role, reverence for this institution, and clarity about our challenges. Ornamental language can't disguise the fact that this is a precarious moment for Columbia University. In serving our community and navigating what's to come, I pledge to be as transparent as possible, and to work as hard as I can to do right by a place that is so critical to all of us, and to the world.

There is no overstating the influence Columbia has had on my life. When I arrived on College Walk in 1982, I wasn't your typical student. I had transferred into the first class of women, not appreciating that fact at the time. I grew up in the Midwest, and I wasn't particularly well-versed in the Ivy League. What I found here was a place that ignited my curiosity and drive to explore. As is the case for so many students, I arrived at Columbia, and something clicked. I recognized myself.



This is what happens at Columbia. We love the sharp argument, the intellectual sprawl, the sense that anything feels possible. I returned for graduate school and then served on the SIPA Advisory Board, the College Board of Visitors, and the Board of Trustees, hooked on all the ways this remarkable place keeps pushing the frontiers of scholarship and discovery.

I want to express my deep gratitude to Dr. Katrina Armstrong for taking on the challenge of stepping in as Interim President, and for her heroic efforts over the past seven months.

Over the coming days and weeks, I hope to meet and talk with as many of you as I can. If you see me, please come and say hello. I want to hear from you, and I would welcome input about how we can build a shared sense of community.

We will continue to build on the significant progress we've made, and the plan outlined to move our community forward.

To be clear—our task is not an easy one. But a skill Columbia teaches all of us is perseverance; my request, right now, is that we all—students, faculty, staff, and everyone in this remarkable place—come together and work to protect and support this invaluable repository of knowledge, this home to the next generation of intellectual explorers, and this place of great and continuing promise.

I look forward to seeing you on campus.

*Sincerely,
Claire Shipman
Acting President, Columbia University in the City of New York*

Source: <https://communications.news.columbia.edu/news/message-acting-president-claire-shipman>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:     

Labels: Columbia, politics

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Fernald Closing

Parents are concerned about the planned closure on Sept. 1 of the Fernald Childcare Center up near the northeast end of the UCLA campus.* Statement by concerned parents below:

UCLA Fernald Center Closure Sparks Outcry from Faculty and Families

The UCLA community is uniting in defense of the Fernald Center, a beloved on-campus early childhood education facility, in light of its proposed closure. This decision has ignited serious concerns among faculty, staff, and families who depend on the center for high-quality childcare.

In a letter addressed to Dean of Education and University Administration, Dr. Yalda Afshar, an Associate Professor at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, expressed her profound distress regarding the discussions surrounding this closure. Having enrolled two children at the center for over four years, Afshar highlighted the invaluable role it has played in both her professional and personal life.

"Fernald has taught me how to be a parent, allowed me to become both a physician-scientist and a mom, and most importantly, it is our family and community," Afshar stated. "This peace of mind allows me to fully dedicate myself to my clinic care, research, and teaching responsibilities at UCLA."

The Fernald Center is renowned for its exemplary safety record and its accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), valid through 2029. Conversely, the Krieger Center, another on-campus childcare facility, has recently faced significant challenges, including troubling incidents involving rodent droppings, high staff turnover due to allegations of abuse, and an ongoing investigation of charges of sexual assault.

The note sent to teachers regarding the transition indicated the administration's intent to reduce redundancies and achieve cost savings. However, many in the UCLA community contend that consolidating childcare options will not resolve the underlying issues at the Krieger Center and may, in fact, threaten the quality of care provided to families. The plan will also further reduce childcare capacity for the large pool of UCLA students, residents, staff, and faculty in need of childcare.

"While we acknowledge that support is needed to support and improve the Krieger Center, simply transferring our children from Fernald to Krieger will not resolve the existing issues," Afshar implored. "We must prioritize and preserve the Fernald Center, which is a vital resource for our community. Our goal should be to strengthen Krieger and ensure it meets the high standards of care that UCLA families deserve."

Dr. Natalia Ramos, an Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at DGSOM and Medical Director of the UCLA Stress, Trauma, and Resilience Clinic, reinforces these sentiments: "As faculty parents of young children, we rely on the university to provide a safe, reputable, and trusted center for our children. Previous issues at Krieger—and the total lack of transparency during this process—make us uneasy and concerned for our children's safety."

The potential closure of the Fernald Center has sparked a passionate response from the UCLA community, with numerous faculty members and families expressing their concerns. They argue that the Fernald Center is not merely a childcare facility but an essential cornerstone of their lives and a vital resource for faculty at UCLA.

As the community rallies to ensure that this indispensable resource continues to thrive, the UCLA administration is facing increasing pressure to reconsider their plan to close the Fernald Center. The future of this cherished institution remains uncertain, but the voices of those who rely on it are growing louder. They have addressed concerns to Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Hunt as well as Dean Christie and Associate Dean Lazo of the UCLA School of Education.

The parents want to be clear: while we deeply desire for Krieger to succeed as part of the ECE framework, sending our children there from Fernald is irresponsible given the ongoing challenges. We believe in creating a better option for all, enhancing faculty and staff support, celebrating teachers, all while ensuring the safety and quality of care for our children.

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Aya Tasaki: AyaTasaki@gmail.com

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Source: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1odEB_bh16LctdVTS43GZ7eCVpoUDC6ip/edit.

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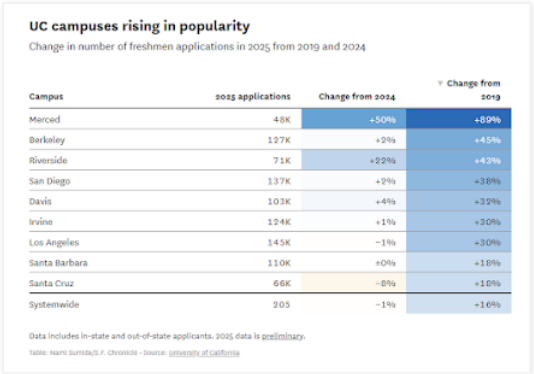
*<https://dailybruin.com/2025/03/20/ucla-child-care-center-to-close-attendees-to-move-to-krieger-center-in-september>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Low Applications Campuses Grow the Most



The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) provided the table above. It shows:

- 1) UCLA received the most applications of all the undergraduate campuses.
- 2) The low application campuses (Merced and Riverside) experienced the largest increases in applications, whether gauged from last year or pre-pandemic 2019. (Merced provided free applications to drive up applications this year.)
- 3) All campuses have significantly increased applications since 2019. But growth over last year at the high-application campuses stalled relative to last year.

Reminder: Applications are not the same as final enrollments. Enrollments are determined by the acceptance rate of the campus and within it, the acceptance rate of applicants.

Source: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/college-admissions/article/uc-applications-20238586.php>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC, UC-Berkeley, UC-Davis, UC-Irvine, UC-Merced, UC-Riverside, UC-San Diego, UC-Santa Barbara, UC-Santa Cruz, UCLA

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